

D-525
St. Mary's Refuge for Sinners Church
Cambridge
1894
Private

Defining the southwest corner of Mill and William streets is the former St. Mary's Refuge for Sinners Church, a well-crafted stretcher bond brick building erected in 1894. A short item in the *Democrat & News* stated on August 18, 1894, "The Catholic Church is nearing completion. It is a building of nice proportions and will be dedicated September 12."

Designed with a steeply pitched roof with kicked eaves, the church is enhanced with modest Gothic Revival inspired features such as the large round windows and pointed arch front entrance. Buttresses on each side elevation also recall the Gothic architectural tradition of strengthening exterior walls, and a medieval touch was also allowed the interior side chimney stack with its pointed arch cap and stone weatherings. The rear elevation of the Gothic inspired church, however, is uncharacteristically finished with a modified clipped gable roof form blended with a Victorian gable above the round sanctuary window.

As depicted in a turn of the twentieth century image of the church, the original double door entrance was sheltered by an open Gothic inspired porch featuring stone half columns under the kicked eave gable roof. A scissors-like truss incorporated a quatrefoil pierced decoration that is repeated in the muntin design of the large round window above. During the mid twentieth century, the open porch was enclosed with brick and the pointed arch entrance form as well as the kicked eave gable roof were retained.

The Catholic religion surfaces in Dorchester County relatively early with a small congregation forming in western precincts during the early to mid eighteenth century. However, a congregation in Cambridge did not form until the post Civil War decades. Under the efforts of the Right Reverend Alfred A. Curtis, a property was acquired with an initial building erected around 1885. The extant brick church was erected around 1894 along with an adjacent rectory (See D-527) The St. Mary's congregation held title to the property until 1974. The current Presbyterian congregation purchased the church in 2001.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of

Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-525

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Saint Mary's Refuge for Sinners
other Redeemer Presbyterian Church of the Mid-Shore

2. Location

street and number 300 Mill Street ☐ not for publication
city, town Cambridge vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Redeemer Presbyterian Church of the Mid-Shore
street and number P. O. Box 395 telephone 410-
city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613-0395

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 457 folio 260
city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 42 tax ID number 7-180004

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-525

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

St. Mary's Refuge of Sinners Church, now owned and occupied by the congregation of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church of the Mid-Shore, is a single-story, gable-roofed brick structure that stands on the southwest corner of the intersection of Mill and William streets at 300 Mill Street in the residential neighborhood on the north side of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The Gothic Revival brick church, erected in 1894, faces northwest the principal gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis. Standing adjacent to the church is the former rectory, also built in 1894. (See D-527)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Formerly the Saint Mary's Refuge of Sinners Church, and now the Redeemer Presbyterian Church of the Mid-Shore, is a single story cruciform shaped brick structure that stands at 300 Mill Street in a quiet residential neighborhood of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The gable-front, stretcher bond brick building rests on a partially excavated cellar or crawl space with a raised foundation defined by a molded watertable, and it is covered by a steeply pitched gable roof featuring kicked eaves. The rectangular shape of the sanctuary is augmented in front by a gable-roofed vestibule entrance, and to the rear small cross wings to form the cruciform shape. Rising on the southwest corner is a three-story tower with a flat roof that housed the church bells.

The northwest (main) elevation is a symmetrical gable-front façade with the enclosed entrance vestibule centered on a round window featuring a four-lobed muntin design and colored glass windows. The round window is framed by decorative brickwork that incorporates a pointed arch in raised and molded brick. The vestibule structure has a Gothic point to the double door entrance, and the doors swing on Gothic inspired hinges. Fixed atop the double doors is a pointed, colored glass transom. The sides of the vestibule are pierced by a cross design also executed with colored glass, and the gable roof has kicked eaves like the main block. To each side of the vestibule structure are small pointed arch window openings fitted with a jack arch in the form of a pointed arch. The steeply pitched slate roof is finished with an extended eave and small bracket blocks enrich cornice. Fixed atop the roof is a decorative metal cross.

The northeast side facing William Street is a four-bay façade defined by a series of four double window units located in between brick buttresses. The buttresses have stone caps. Small metal vents pierce the foundation wall. At the south end of the elevation is a projecting gable roofed wing pierced by a single pointed arch window unit. Rising off-center on the façade is an interior side brick chimney stack featuring a sloped shoulder finished with stone weatherings and a Gothic point to the chimney cap. Fixed in the northeast corner of the foundation is a cornerstone inscribed, "Until He Comes." The

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Historic Properties Form

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The southeast (rear) elevation has a clipped gable roof complicated by a small cross gable centered above a round sanctuary window. The cross gable end and end wall of the building is finished with an enclosed cornice. Piercing the rear wall are two window units fitted with multi-pane clear sash and stone sills. Rising against the southwest corner is the three-story brick tower marked by narrow, blocked up openings, and a flat roof.

The southwest side of the church is finished in a similar fashion as the northeast side with paired window units and buttresses fitted with stone caps. The cross wing at the south end of the wall elevation contains a handicapped side entrance through a pointed arch doorway.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-525

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1894

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Defining the southwest corner of Mill and William Street is the former St. Mary's Refuge of Sinners Church, a well-crafted stretcher bond brick building built around 1894. Designed with a steeply pitched roof with kicked eaves, the church is enhanced with modest Gothic Revival inspired features such as the large round windows and pointed arch front entrance. Buttresses on each side elevation also recall the Gothic architectural design features, and a medieval touch was also allowed the interior side chimney stack with its pointed arch cap and stone weatherings. The rear elevation of the Gothic inspired church, however, is uncharacteristically finished with a modified clipped gable roof form blended with a Victorian cross gable.

As depicted in a turn of the twentieth century image of the church, the original double door entrance was sheltered by an open Gothic inspired porch featuring stone half columns under the kicked eave gable roof. A scissors-like truss incorporated a quatra-foil pierced decoration that is repeated in the muntin design of the large round window above. During the mid twentieth century, the open porch was enclosed with brick with the pointed arch entrance form retained as well as the gable roof and kicked eaves.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Catholic religion surfaces in Dorchester County relatively early with a small congregation forming in western Dorchester County during the early to mid eighteenth century.¹ However, a congregation in Cambridge did not form until the post Civil War decades under the efforts of the Right Reverend Alfred A. Curtis, who is recorded as the grantee to the Mill and Race street lot in 1894.² The Saint Mary's

¹ Elias Jones, *New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland. Cambridge, Maryland*: Tidewater Publishers, 1966, pp. 123-24.

² Dorchester County Land Record, CL 18/143, 6 March 1894, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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congregation held title to this property until 1974.³ The current Presbyterian congregation purchased the property in 2001.⁴

³ Dorchester County Land Record, 186/550, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, MLB 457/260, 16 July 2001, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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St. Mary's Refuge of Sinners Church
300 Mill Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland
Map 301, Parcel 42

MLB 457/260 Faith Community Church, Inc.

to

7.16.2001 Redeemer Presbyterian Church of the Mid-Shore

186/550 Saint Mary's Refuge of Sinners

to

7.1.1974 Faith Community Church

WHM 2/45 Rt. Rev. John J. Monaghan

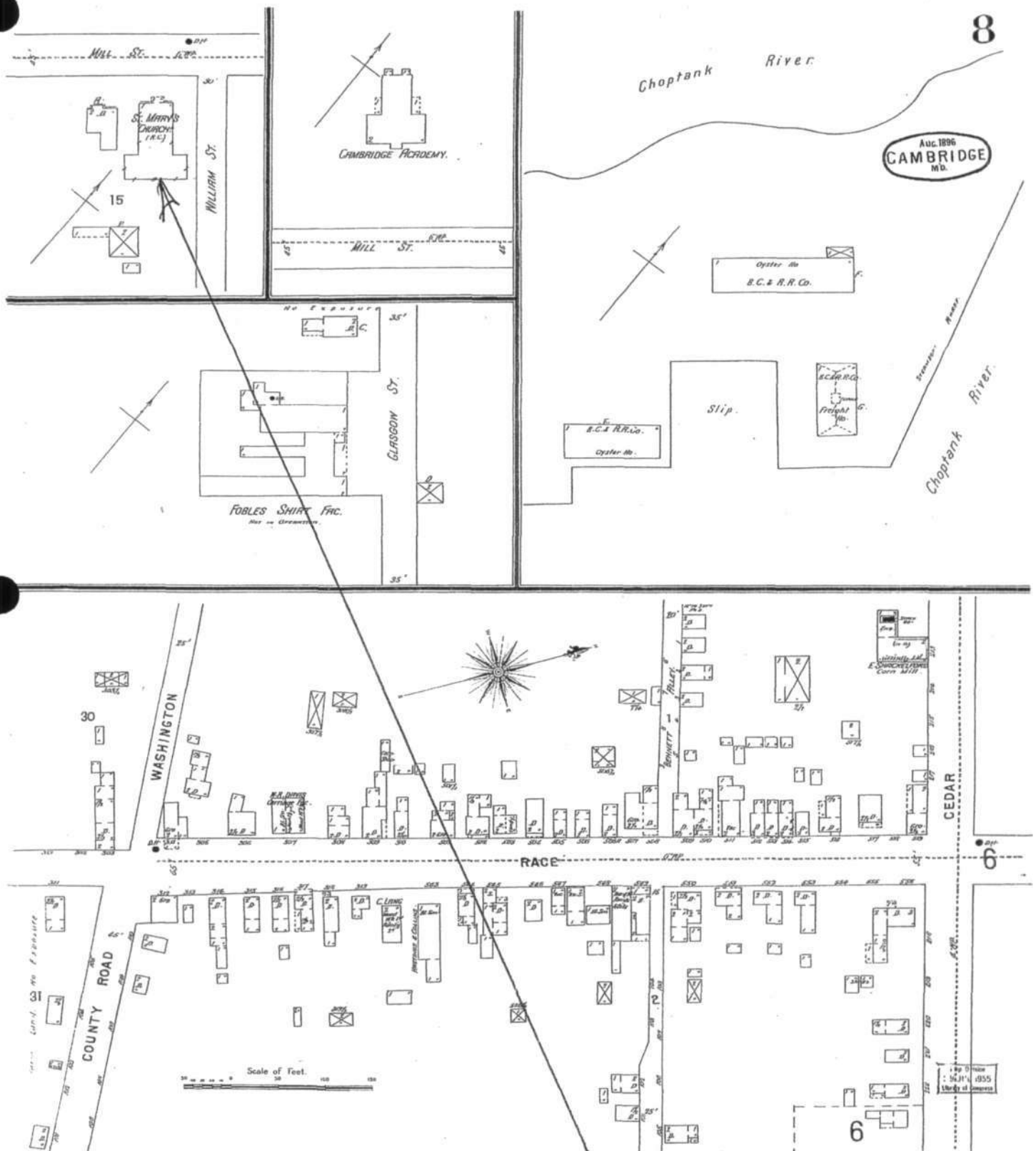
to

3.23.1916 Saint Mary's Refuge of Sinners

CL 18/143 Edgar Bayly and wife, Elizabeth H. Bayly

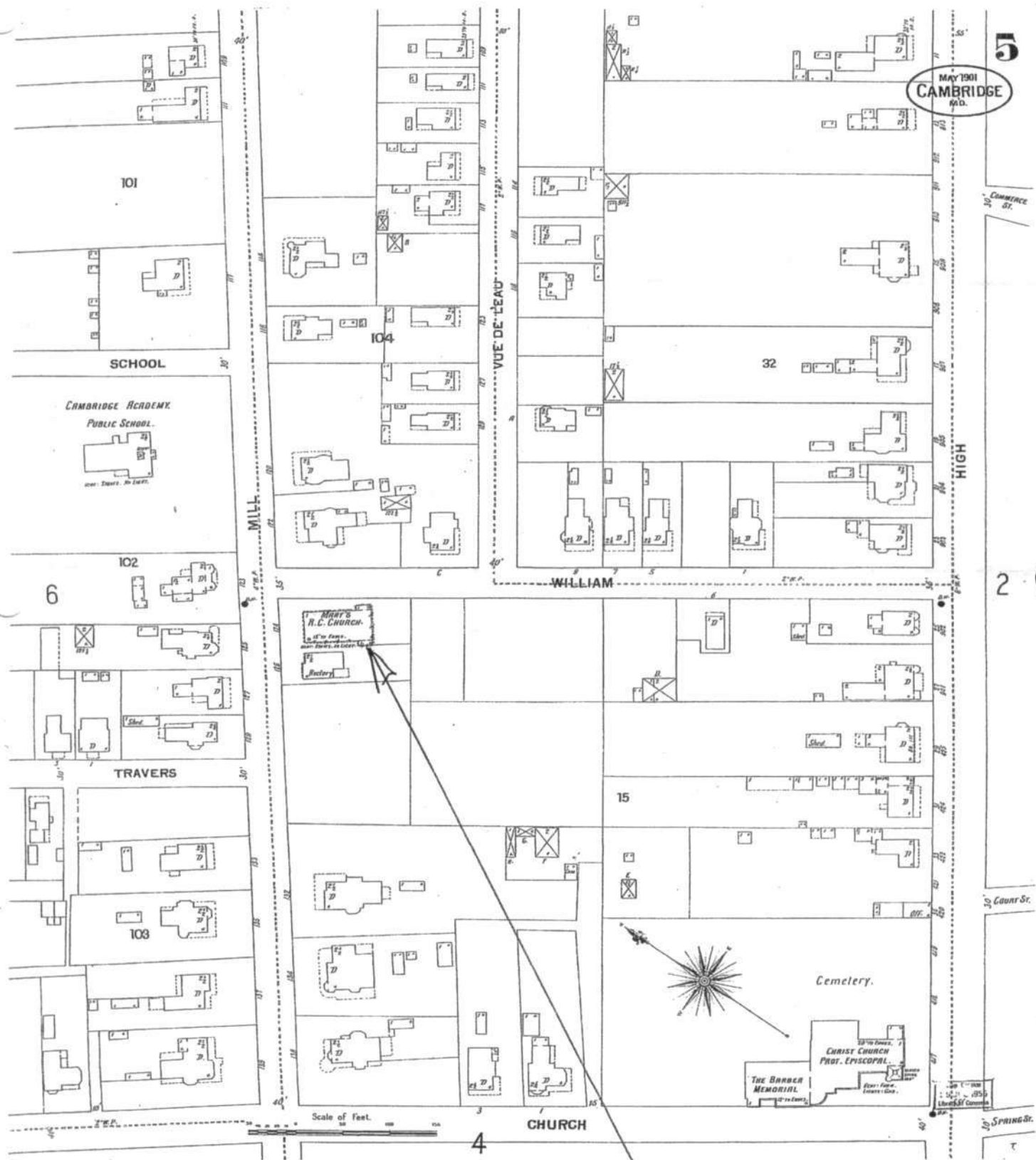
to

3.6.1894 Right Reverend Alfred A. Curtis of the City of Wilmington
\$1,000



D-525, St. Mary's Refuge for Sinners Church

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1896



D-525, St. Mary's Refuge for Sinners Church

Sanborn Insurance Map. 1901

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-525

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Jones, Elias, *New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland*, Cambridge, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1966.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, various volumes, Library of Congress.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 16,445 square feet
Acreage of historical setting 16,445 square feet +/-
Quadrangle name Cambridge, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	2.24.2010
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

[illegible]

Cambridge, MD Quadrangle



D-525

St. Mary's Refuge for Sinners

CECILIA

CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

3.2011, Paul B. Touant, PHOTO.

W.E./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 1

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

D-525
1005254608

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300 Mill Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Dorchester

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Faith Community Church, Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dorchester County Courthouse

Liber #: 186

Folio #: 550

STREET & NUMBER

206 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

21613

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

D-525

CONDITION☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This one story gable roofed church contains some elements of the Gothic Revival Style. On the front of the church is a circular stained glass window, with a traceried quatrefoil design. In front of the door is an enclosed portico with a gable roof. There is a double door on the front of this portico with an arched light above. On the north and south facades of the church are four double rectangular stained glass windows with tracery. Buttresses are evenly spaced along the side facades.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This 20th century church built in a Neo-Gothic
Style is not architecturally or historically significant.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catherine L. Moore, _____

ORGANIZATION

DATE

11/26/75

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cambridge

Maryland 21613

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The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

300 Mill Street

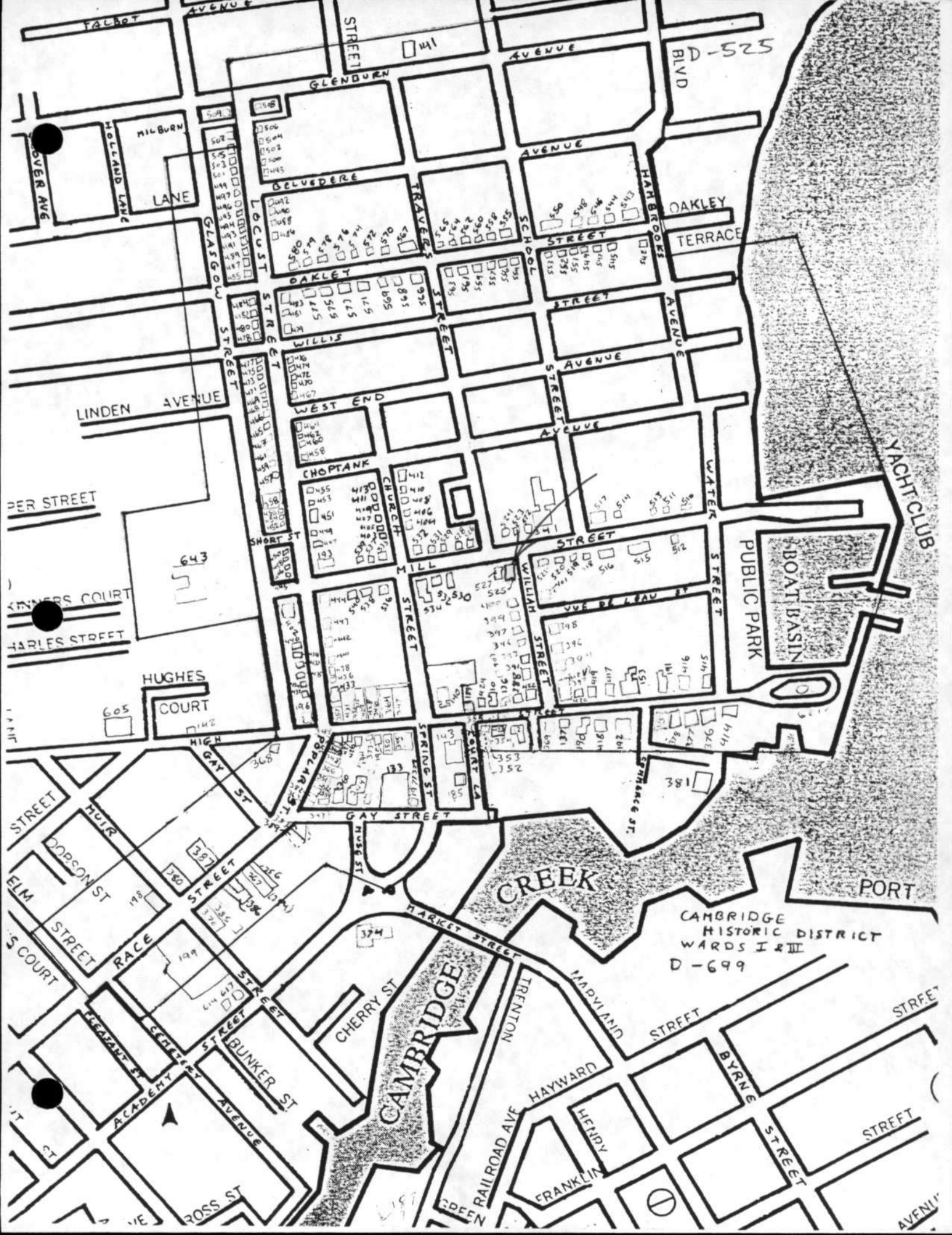
This church, built in 1894, served as St. Mary's Refuge of Sinners Roman Catholic Church until 1974, when the parish moved to its present location on Glasgow Road. This building is a small, Neo-Gothic structure that contributes to the turn of the century character of Mill Street.

References:

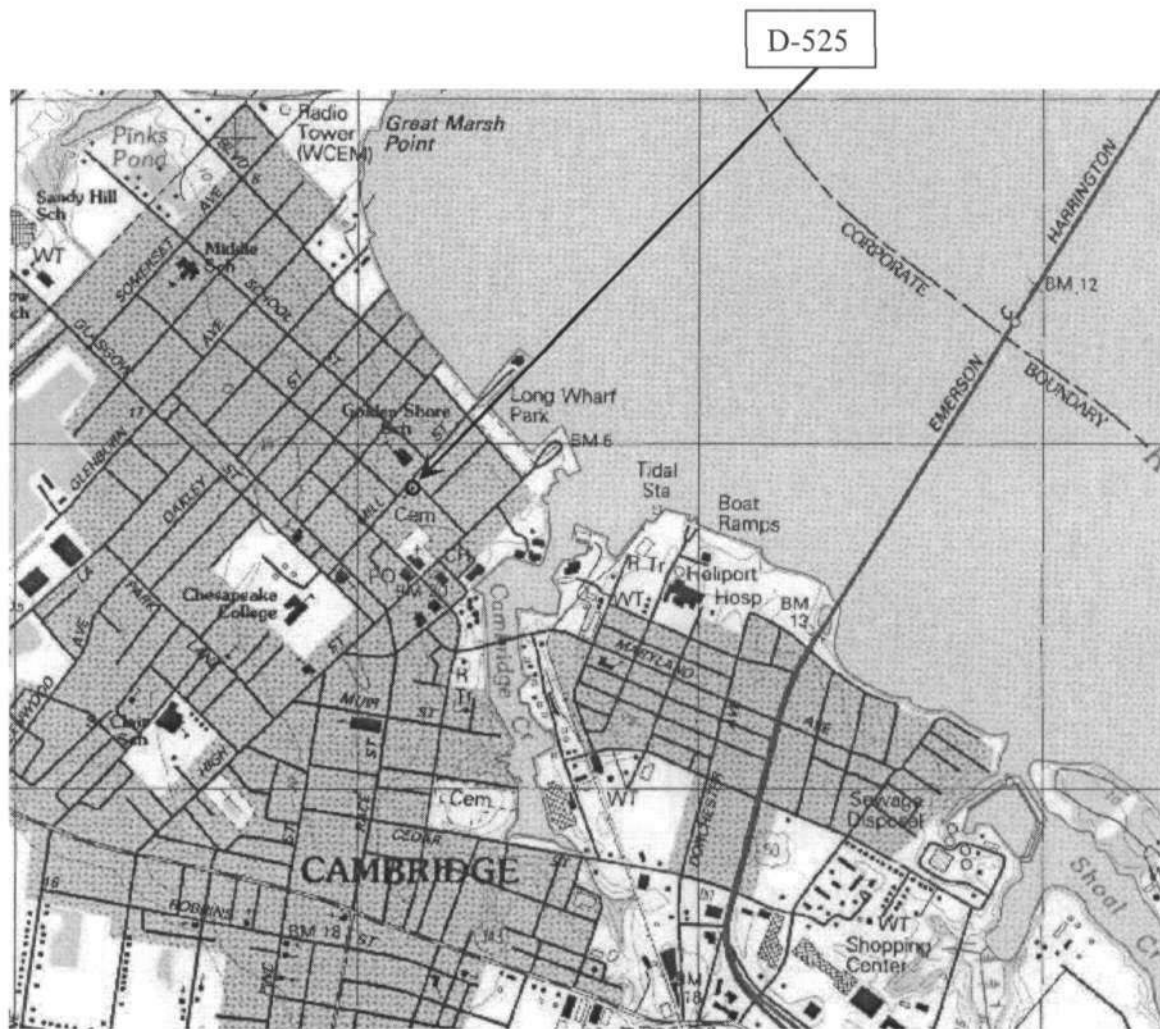
Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.
Land Records.

Souvenir and Programme of the Maryland Division L.A.W.

Bicycle Meet, Cambridge, Maryland, July 3rd and 4th, 1896.
Baltimore: American Job Printing Office, 1896.



D-525
Faith Community Church
300 Mill St.
Cambridge
Cambridge Quad.
Dorchester Co.





FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH - 300 MILL ST., CAMBRIDGE, MD. - WEST FACADE - C.L. MOORE - 1976

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